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Attorney Docket No. 1336.0020US01

JUN 2 1 2004

MBRCHANT & GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

🔾 As a below pamed inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to

name; that					, ; ;
I verily believe I am the of are named below) of the subject m PROCESS FOR PREPARATION CARBOXYLIC ACID		hich a patent is sough	on the inven	tion entitled: IMPROVE	D '
The specification of which a. 1 is attached hereto b. was filed on March 15, 200-	4, as application serial no.	and was amended on		plicable) (in the case of a	
application) described and claimed for which I solicit a United States p		and as amende	don (if any), which I have revi	ewed and
I hereby state that I have reviewed any amendment referred to above.	and understand the contents of t	he above-identified sp	ecification, i	ncluding the claims, as an	nended b
I hereby claim foreign priority ben certificate listed below and have al that of the application on the basis	so identified below any foreign:	es Code, § 119/365 of application for patent	any forcign a or inventor's (pplication(s) for patent or certificate having a filing	r inventor date befo
no such applications have been b. Such applications have been	∞n filed.				
u. 23 auch applications have been					200
	EIGN APPLICATION(S), UF ANY, C	Laiming Priority UN	IDER 35 USC 6	119	.,91
COUNTRY	EIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, C APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	IDER 35 USC 6	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)	
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U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (reprinted below):

§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.

- patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of cando and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information whom to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner brown to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
 - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record of being made of record in the application, and
 - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prime facie case of unpatentability of a claim

or

- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (il) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
 - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
 - (2) Hech attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.
- (e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

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I hereby authorize them to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/assessomey/firm/ organization who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by whom/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full distinctionare to be represented unless/until I instruct Merchant & Gould P.C. to the contrary.

I understand that the execution of this document, and the grant of a power of attorney, does not in itself establish aman attorney-client relationship between the undersigned and the law firm Merchant & Gould P.C., or any of its attorneys.

Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

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Merchant & Gould P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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